

NEW WEST INTERNATIONAL

newsletter

| Volume 01

A Message from our Program Manager, Trevor Gee

A belated welcome back to students, staff and host families who, together make our international education program the dynamic program that it is. At the beginning of every school year, we as staff in the international education program have a school start up different from most. Not only are we meeting students who are starting a new school year we are meeting students from around the world who are embarking on an adventure like no other. They are leaving their parents and the familiarity of home to come to our big school in our small city. During orientation week their youthful, "We can change the world." energy and optimism are palpable and inspirational to all of us. The challenge that we accept is to maintain and even expand this sense of "one world" of youth beyond the reality of school and homework, rainy weather the inevitable homesickness that affects even the toughest student.

To assist students with the transition from September into October we encourage them to become involved in school clubs, sports and volunteering. Posters around the school, TV screen and Teams messages as well as daily announcements inform students of the opportunities for them to get involved, learn something new and of course have fun. In short, experience has taught us that "a busy student is a happy student". Students who are active at school and within the community report having the best experience. They keep the orientation week "spirit and energy" alive and in their small way make the world a better place through having an open mind to others and the kindness that they show and receive along the way.

I wish all of our students success and enjoyment during their experience in Canada and New Westminster.

SEPTEMBER INSIGHTS



BOWLING TOGETHER!

Our Welcome Week/ Orientation is a chance to learn, ask questions and make new friends. Bowling was the perfect venue to have fun and make new memories.



Thoughts from a New Student

The entire study abroad experience is a life-changing opportunity, you meet many people from really different cultures and places all over the globe. So far, one of my favourite memories is going to the English bay to see the sunset with all my friends, the trip was very fun and although the water was extremely cold, the beach was gorgeous, everyone had a great time playing volleyball, making sand castles, swimming or just chatting around.

Leonel, Mexico

“ Advice from a Returning Student to a New Student:

“I would like to suggest to new students that they should not exclusively stay with people from the same country. Even if you stay with them, try to speak in English. Some might lack confidence in speaking English or engaging with others, but if you make an effort now, your English will improve, and it will become much easier later on.”

Mikoto, Japan

Sleepovers

Sleepovers are fun and a great way to make memories with friends. There are just some important reminders to keep in mind when planning.

Student - Ask your host family first! Before the sleepover, bring your friend to meet your host family. Once your host family has agreed to a sleepover share with them your friend's host family's name, address, phone number.

Host Family - Meet and get to know your student's friend in person; phone their supervising adult and discuss the plan.



Absences

Attendance is important! But if your student needs to be absent for a valid reason, the host family must report their absence. Absences can be reported through the following means:

- 24 hours a day through the voice message system at 604-517-6391
- Absences can be reported any time in advance, or before 9:45am on the day of the absence, using the link: <https://nwss.ca/contact-us/report-a-student-absence/>
- Students cannot report their own absence.

If the student is repeatedly absent due to illness, the host family should assist the student in seeing a doctor. If the host family receives automated messages indicating your student has missed a class(es) without a valid reason, please talk to the student and report this to the IEP office.



HOMESTAY HIGHLIGHTS



Homestay Tips from a Host Family:

The best tips I have learned over the years start when you first get your student profiles, reach out. Send emails and when it gets to be about a month before do a facetime. Ask your students (if you are taking more than 1) if they would like to get in touch with the other student(s) before they arrive. This is a great thing so they get to chat and get to know each other.

As much as possible have family dinners and engage each student in conversation about their day. The best part and if they have any concerns.

If you bake, ask them if they would like to bake or cook a family meal.

If they don't volunteer to help set table or clean up after dinner ask them if they would. Most will as they likely do at home but just need to be asked.

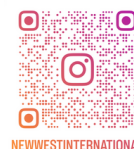
Lastly have your house rules and make sure they understand them. You might have to remind them but that is ok. They are teenagers.

Enjoy your students and keep the communication open.

Stephanie, Host Family



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